

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 HA-05 /100 W
-----052034 030702Z /23

R 021542Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10792

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EMIN, BE, ZA

SUBJ: UNION MINIERE COMMENTS ON SHABA EVENTS.

1. AT ANNUAL MEETING OF UNION MINIERE STOCKHOLDERS IN LATE MAY, PAUL-EMILE CORBIAU, PRESIDENT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNION MINIERE AND GOVERNOR OF THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY SOCIETE GENERALE DELIVERED LENGTHY STATEMENT ON RECENT EVENTS IN SHABA.

2. FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM CORBIAU'S REMARKS AS REPORTED IN BRUSSELS FINANCIAL PRESS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES (EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

BEGIN QUOTE ... WE HAVE THE DUTY TO DEVOTE ALL OUR ENERGY TO LIMITING AS BEST WE CAN THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT KOLWEZI AND TO RESTORING THE SITUATION AT GECAMINES WHICH IS, AS I SAID BEFORE, THE KEY LINK IN THE CHAIN OF SUBSISTENCE FOR THE POPULATION OF ZAIRE. THIS IS WHY THE COMPANIES IN OUR GROUP HAVE DECIDED TO INTENSIFY THEIR COLLABORATION WITH GECAMINES AND WITH ZAIRE AS MUCH AS
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THEY CAN AND TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE ASKED. THIS ACTION, DICTATED FIRST OF ALL BY HUMANITARIAN SENTIMENTS, IS ALSO REQUIRED BY THE COMPLEMENTARY NATURE OF BELGIAN AND ZAIRIAN INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY IN NON-FERROUS METALS. ... I WOULD LIKE TO END THESE REMARKS BY REAFFIRMING OUR ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZAIRE AND IN THE POTENTIAL IT CAN OFFER FOR BELGIAN COLLABORATION. OUR

GROUP WILL CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF AIMING TO PROMOTE THE
ASSOCIATION OF BELGIAN AND ZAIRIAN INDUSTRIES; THIS, WE
BELIEVE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. END
QUOTE. DE TARR

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